MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

श्री अमर सिंह : सर, मामला गंभीर है। **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी : सभापति महोदय, यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सभापति : आप छोडिये। इस पर half-an-hour discussion होगा। we can have Half an Hour discussion on it Next Question

Suicides by farmers

*4. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suicides by farmers reeling under debt is on the increase across the country despite various relief packages announced by the State Governments and the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, including the relief packages announced, during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana) is being implemented in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season.

To provide relief in the event of natural calamities two schemes are under implementation by the Ministry of Home Affairs in terms of recommendations of the Finance Commission, *viz.* Calamity Relief Fund and the National Calamity Contingency Fund. Besides, the Ministry of Rural Development provides foodgrains free of cost under the special component of the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana for generating relief employment for victims of natural calamities who suffer loss of employment.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, a large number of cases of suicide by farmers from several parts of the country, particularly, from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura have been reported. The problem of suicide by farmers has become a challenge for

the administration. It has become a challenge for the Government, administration, society and also for the Parliament.

डा. अलादी पी. राजकुमार : सभापति महोदय, प्रधान मंत्री जी हाउस से जा रहे है । आप प्रधान मंत्री जी को वापिस बुला लीजिए । यह फारमर्स के सुसाइड का क्वेश्चन है । आंध्र प्रदेश में किसानों ने सुसाइड किये है । प्रधान मंत्री जी हाउस में मौजूद रहने चाहिए । …(**व्यवधान**)… चेयरमैन साहब, प्रधान मंत्री जी ऐसे क्वेश्चन में बैठे रहने चाहिए । …(**व्यवधान**)…

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइये । …(**व्यवधान**)… कृषि मंत्री जी हाउस में बैंठे हैं । आप इनसे पूछ लीजिए । …(**व्यवधान**)… आप बैठ जाइये । …(**व्यवधान**)… कृषि मंत्री जी बैठे है । …(**व्यवधान**)… माननीय सदस्य ऐसे नही चलेगा । …(**व्यवधान**)… यहां मंत्री महोदय बैठे है, कृषि मंत्री जी बैठे है, वे अच्छी तरह से जानते है, आपको जो प्रश्न करना है, उनसे करिये । …(**व्यवधान**)…

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, in spite of the packages that have been given by the State Government, as also by the Central Government, there has been an increase in suicides. The question before the country today is, whether there is the willpower to save these farmers, particularly, the poor, small and marginal farmers.

Sir, you are coming from the State, you are the protector of the farmers, particularly, the poor, small and medium farmers. Now, the question is whether the Government, after giving the relief packages, have made any study as to why, in spite of the relief given, the suicides have increased. If so, the details of that may be given.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this particular problem has been greater in three States. It is true that some of the States have appointed some committees. These committees have gone into it in details and submitted their reports. For instance, I have briefed this august House that in Andhra Pradesh, one of the expert committees was appointed. One of the management organisations was deputed for this job and they have come out with some definite conclusions.

In Maharashtra, the State Government has appointed the Indira Gandhi Institute of Management. They have submitted their report. They have come to some definite conclusions. Some other states have also taken up a detailed survey. A number of decisions have been taken by the State Government. But, it is true that these types of cases are still there.

One of the major reason was, indebtedness. I have given detailed information in this regard also as to how much money has been provided in the last two years as an agricultural credit to the farming community and how many cases of rescheduling of loan have been executed in most of the States. There is practically more than a 30 to 35 per cent rise and that is why, one of the most important decisions have been taken by the State, which has been implemented.

Another problem, which we are facing today is, most of the cooperative banks in this country, which are supposed to provide finance to the agricultural community, are becoming sick day by day. A committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Prof. Vaidyanathan to go into it in detail. The committee's report came, Chief Ministers' meeting was called and the package of Rt. 14,000 crores, just to strengthen these cooperative banks, which will be able to provide money to the farming community, has been approved The State Government provided Rs. 2000 crore and the Government of India will provide Rs. 12,000 crore. This is only for short-term credit. For the long-term credit, another committee was appointed. We have recently received that Committee's report and we are going to take a final decision on these things.

There are a number of issues where we have to take a proper decision. Most of the decisions have to be taken by the State Government. The Government of India is also taking this particular matter very seriously.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the problem is mainly because of indebtedness. That is right. The question before the nation is, whether the farmers, in spite of the packages that have been given to them in view of the drought, in view of the flood, have nothing left with them. Now, under these circumstances, has the Government taken any steps, is there any proposal, is there anything in their minds, to write off the old loans, which they are not in a position to pay? Then, of late, in Vidarbha, and also Maharashtra and other parts of the country....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, put your question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, the price of onion, as also cotton and tomato has gone down like anything. What steps have you taken in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, regarding writing off of old loans, I will not be able to comment because this is a subject, which is essentially handled by the Ministry of Finance, and there has been no specific decision about this.

As regards cotton, it is true that there is a scheme in Vidarbha and Maharashtra for monopoly procurement of cotton. There was a demand from certain organisations that monopoly should be removed and others should also be allowed to procure or purchase cotton. Government of Maharashtra have recently amended their scheme; they have removed monopoly. Government is also buying cotton through State cooperative cotton marketing federation and private sectors are also allowed to procure them. Whatever prices have been finalised by the Government of India, practically the cotton has been purchased within the limit of these prices plus Cotton Corporation of India is also entering to procure cotton there, and they are also paying that price. Last year's production was one of the best productions. That particular bales I have seen. But this year the position was not very good There was a problem of yield; there was a failure of certain varieties. That is why we are getting certain complaints about cotton. Now, I come to the question of onion. It is true that this year a substantial crop of onion is there. In fact, in the last Session I was facing so many questions here about the high prices of onion. There was a demand of import of onion. But this time there is a surplus production. Our efforts are to encourage export of onion from India to a number of other neighbouring countries. There is no specific scheme for tomato.

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : सर, सबसे ज्यादा आश्चर्य इस जवाब से होता हैं क्योंकि मुख्य प्रश्न यह था कि suicide केसेज बढ़े है या नही, इसका कोई जवाब नही आया है । हम तो शरद पवार जी की सराहना करते हैं, लेकिन यहां के जो ब्यूराक्रेटस जवाब बनाकर देते है, यह एप्रोच अगर चेंज नही होती तो कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम के compassion से यह मुददा देखा जाएगा । अभी अपने जवाब में इन्होंने जिक्र किया है, आज ही "हिंदू" में कॉटन फार्मर्स के बारे में एक आर्टिकल आया है, तो सरकारी प्रोक्योरमेंट आउटलेटस में वन – थर्ड की कटौती हुई है । मतलब पहले जो 400 से अधिक था, वह 141 कुछ हैं, तो हम यह जानना चाहेंगे कि इसके बारे में बहुत अच्छा विश्लेषण नेशनल कमीशन फॉर फार्मर्स एम0एस0 स्वामीनाथन की अध्यक्षता में गठित हुआ है, समयबध्द तरीके से सरकार उसको कब तक लागू करेगी ?

श्री शरद पवार : जहां तक फिगर्स की बात यहां कही गई हैं जो सवाल पूछा है, । was expecting a supplementary question, that is why I have no hesitation to

give the information. अलग – अलग स्टेटस में स्थिति अलग है । कुछ स्टेटस में फिगर बढ़ रही है, कुछ स्टेटस में कम हो रही है, for instance, आंध्र की जो लेटेस्ट पोजिशन है, 2003-04 में आंध्र सरकार ने भारत सरकार को जो टोटल केसेज रिपोर्ट किए है, वह 254 है और आंध्र सरकार ने 2004-05 में 11 नवंबर, 2005 तक जो फिगर्स रिपोर्ट किए हैं, वह 1068 है, मतलब बढ़ गई है । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

डा0 अलादी पी0 राजकुमार : यह गलत है साहब ।

श्री सभापति : बोलने दो उनको । ...(**व्यवधान**)... बोलने दो भाई, यह बीच में please plese don't interrupt shri Rajkumar please take your seat.

डा0 अलादी पी0 राजकुमार : आंध्र गवर्नमेंट आपको बराबर समाचार नही दे रही है ।

श्री शरद पवार : इसमें जो फिगर्स स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से आई हैं, पिछले साल से इस साल suicide के केसेज का नंबर बढ़ गया है - - इस तरह का स्टेटमेंट आंध्र सरकार का ही है । जहां तक कर्नाटक की बात है, वहां 2004-05 में टोटल केसेज 271 थे, 2005-06 में 23.8.2005 तक टोटल केसेज की जो रिपोर्ट हुई है, वह 52 है, यानी कर्नाटक में ट्रेंड कम हो रहा है । जहां तक महाराष्ट्र की बात है, वहां 2004 में जो टोटल केसेज महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने रिपोर्ट किए है, वे 554 हैं और 2005 में, दिसंबर तक 2005 तक 142 + 45, इतना नंबर महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने inform किया है । जहां तक पंजाब की बात है, 2004-05 और 2005-06 में पंजाब सरकार के मुताबिक स्टेट में एक भी केस नही हुआ, इसलिए वहां भी नंबर कम हो रहा है । केरल में 2003 में suicide के 40 केस हुए थे, 2004 में 96 केसेज हो गए, यानी थोडी बढ़ोत्तरी है, मगर 2005 की रिपोर्ट केरल सरकार ने अभी तक भेजी नही है । जहां तक उडीसा की बात है, उडीसा में 2004-05 में एक भी केस रिपोर्ट नही हुआ है, 2005-06 में 30 सितम्बर, 2005 तक टोटल 5 केस रिपोर्ट हुए है । गुजरात में 2004 में 4 केस रिपोर्ट हुए थे और 2005 में 1 केस रिपोर्ट हुआ है । इससे एक बात साबित होती है कि बहुत से राज्यों में नंबर कम हो रहा है, मगर यह भी सच है कि कुछ राज्यों में नंबर बढ़ रहा है, खास तौर पर जहां पानी की समस्या है, जहां की खेती टोटल अनइरिगेटेड है, वहां यह समस्या बढ़ रही है ।

श्री शरद पवार : एक बात मेरे सामने और आ रही है कि जहां कॉटन की फसल ली है, उस क्षेत्र में भी यह नम्बर थोड़ा सा बढ़ रहा है ।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, there is a deliberate slant in the reply given by the Minister. He talks of non-payment of *debts* not in general but debts taken from the private moneylenders only. Sir, on the 8th of December, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra declared a special

package to help five Districts of Vidarbha where the incidents of suicides were the highest. At *the* same time, the Home Minister there declared *thai* the farmers need not return the loans taken from the private moneylenders and they have been declared as illegal. With the result of that, after thai date, the incidents of suicides in Vidarbha have increased because even the shopkeepers refused to give provisions on credit to the farmers. This brings out the question.! have been the reports of most of the people. We have ourselves carried out our researches ourselves. Recently, the *Indian Express* carried a series of articles on the Vidarbha suicides.

MR. CHAIRWAN: Please come to your question.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: There is nothing to show that it is only the loans from the private moneylenders, are responsible for this. While the Minister has brought out only the loans from private moneylenders, according to our experience, it is the cooperative credit societies that use the most coercive methods and most of the victims of suicides are those who have taken loans from cooperative societies, particularly, in Maharashtra. I would like the Minister to give figures as to how many farmers committed suicide because of loans taken from the private moneylenders and how many farmers committed suicide because of money taken from credit societies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very difficult for the Minister to sort out all these things.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is true that the Maharashtra Government has announced the package for the six Districts of Vidarbha and it is also true that the Government has announced that money taken from those moneylenders who have not taken licence from the Government and are doing money lending business privately, and, whose rate of interest is between 25 per cent to 60 per cent, should not be returned. That communication has been given by the State Government. Not only that, the State Government has started a campaign and have instructed the police department to go and take actions against those types of moneylenders who have got any licence for money lending but are charging these types of interests. There are cases like this and these types of reports have been communicated or sent to us by the Government of Maharashtra.

Now, as far as the question of loans from the cooperative banks is concerned, it is true that most of the farmers are also taking money from the cooperative banks and cooperative societies and they have become defaulters. But, especially, in the six Districts of Vidarbha, percentage of taking money from the cooperative banks is not that high as compared to other Districts. The financial position of the bank is also sick, they are not competent enough or capable enough to provide substantial money; and that is why we have taken up a programme to revitalise these cooperative banks. I will collect the information with regard to how many suicides have taken place because of the money taken from the cooperative societies or banks and put this on the Table of the House or communicate it to the hon. Member.

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : सभापति महोदय, प्रधान मंत्री जी और इस सदन के लिए हर समस्या महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन जिस समय लोगो की आत्महत्या, किसानों की आत्महत्या के बारे में चर्चा हो रही है, उसी समय दुर्भाग्य से प्रधान मंत्री जी सदन से उठकर चले गए है ।

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन पर आ जाइए । **...(व्यवधान)...** क्वेश्चन पर आओ, क्वेश्चन पर । **...(व्यवधान)...** आपका रिकार्ड ठीक होना चाहिए ।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : महोदय मैं अवश्य निर्दिष्ट सवाल पर आउंगा । **...(व्यवधान)...** प्रधान मंत्री जी के प्रांत में, उनकी पार्टी के कार्यकर्त्ता भी खुदकुशी करते है । प्रधानमंत्री जी के प्रांत में यानी पंजाब में **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन करिए । क्वेश्चन करिए ।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : महोदय, मेरा स्पष्ट सवाल यह है, निर्दिष्ट प्रश्न है कि कॉटन कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के सामने बिचौलिये कारोबार करते हैं और उसके सामने जो घोटाला होता, उसी के कारण आन्ध्र प्रदेश में कई किसानों ने आत्महत्या की है । कॉटन कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया को **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, ठीक है, हो गया ।

श्री रूद्रनाराण पाणि : जो कपास खरीदनी है, महोदय, किसान अपनी फसल उगाकर ट्रैक्टर में, ट्रक में लोड़ करके ले जाते है और वे कॉटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया के सामने जाकर खड़े होते हैं, लेकिन उसको CCI खरीदता नही है ।

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, अब आपका यह हो गया है ।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : फिर बिचौलिया आकर उसको खरीदते है । CCI ज्यादा पैसा देकर

बिचौलियों से खरीदता है, इसके कारण आत्महत्या होती है । पार्टी ने मुझे आंध्र प्रदेश भेजा था, मैं दौरा करके आया हूं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति : अब आप बैठ जाइए ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, मेरा मार्मिक निवेदन है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति : देखिए, आप अपना रिकॉर्ड ठीक रखिए, मैं दोबारा क्वेश्चन करने का मौका दे दूंगा ।

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Sir, The Telugu Desam Party has collected a data. So far, 22 months, since the new Government has come to power, more than 3,000 farmers have committed suicide. I have got a list with me. Our cadre went to those families and collected the data. I will send a copy to the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Pawary ji. Sir, during April last, when the hon. Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh, he announced a package for those farmers who had committed suicide. The announcement made was that Rs. one lakh would be given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and Rs. '1.5 lakhs from the State Government. So far, most of the families of the farmers who had committed suicide have not received that money. I would like to know whether the Government would look into this aspect.

The other thing is regarding the credit policy announced by the Government. It is not giving any help to the farmers. My question, in this regard is: Will you extend a flexible credit policy; and, will you extend insurance coverage to both loanee as well as non-loanee?

I would also like to know what other steps the Government is taking to stop these suicides?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, regarding the insurance coverage ....*(Interruptions).*

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, मंत्री जी मेरे सवाल के बारे में बोलेंगे या नही ?

श्री सभापति : आपके सवाल के बारे में बोल देंगे । इन्होंने भी आंध्र प्रदेश का रेफरेंस दिया है, ये आपके समर्थन में बोलें है ।

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Steps have been taken for loanee and non-loanee both. That is available for both now. About the information which has been given by the hon. Member regarding the announcement of some package by the Prime Minister, as per my information, the money

was provided. But, I will definitely collect the information and given it to the House. Regarding the availability of credit, the total target fixed for the last year was Rs. 1,05,000 crores. The actual achievement was Rs. 1,15,000 crores, which is a 32 per cent growth. In fact, year before the last year, the total agriculture credit was provided to the farming community was Rs. 86,000 crores, Rs. 86,981 crores. From Rs. 86,000 crores, we headed to Rs. 1,15,000 crores. So, there is a growth. This year also there is a substantial improvement.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: What is the percentage of the small and marginal farmers?...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सभापति जी, ऐसा लगता है कि मंत्री जी आधा – अधूरा सवाल सोच रहे है । सवाल अकेले यह नही हैं कि किसान जान दे रहा है, सवाल यह है कि किसान का बेटा जान ले भी रहा है । जान देना और जान लेना, दोनों, एक ही इलाके में चलते रहते है। बूढ़ा किसान, जो conservative होता है, वह दूसरों को मारता है, आपके लोगो को भी मारता है, हमारे लोगों को भी मारता है । इन दोनों को अगर साथ मिलाकर आप नही सोचेंगे, तो इसका निदान नही हो सकेगा । आपने इसका निदान यह किया कि इतना कर्जा दे दिया, इतना उधार दे दिया । यह क्या कि किसान अगर मर गया, राज्य सरकार ने आपको रिपोर्ट नही दी या आधी – अधूरी रिपोर्ट दी, तो आपकी मिनिस्ट्री उस पर कुछ नही करेगी । किसान राज्य का विषय नही है, खेती राज्य का विषय हो सकता है, लेकिन किसान सारे हिन्दुस्तान को खाना देता है । बार – बार आपकी तरफ से जवाब आता है कि राज्य सरकार ने यह रिपोर्ट दी है और यह राज्य का विषय है । मुझे हंसी आती है कि यह भाषा कितने दिनों तक चलती रहेगी । क्या देश भर में भूमि सुधार संशोधन कानून समान रूप से लागू है? क्या अब भी ऐसा नही है कि 10 हजार, 20 हजार एकड़ के मालिक एक तरफ है और एक इंच जमीन का मालिक किसी तरफ नही है? उन लोगो से जब किसान जमीन लेता है, तो उस पर एक साल खेती करने के लिए उसको 15 हजार रुपया, 20 हजार रुपया देना पड़ता है । और अगर फसल सूख गई,तो उसे नही देने पर वह आत्महत्या करता है और अगर बाप आत्महत्या कर लेता है, तो उसका बेटा हथियार उठा लेता है । इन सारे सवालों पर सोचने के लिए कई बार केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से जवाब आया कि भूमि सुधार कानून लागू करने के बारे में सरकार विचार कर रही है । लेकिन पन्त के जमींदारी एंबोलिशन के बाद आज तक भूमि सुधार के बारे में आपने कोई कानून नही बनाया । इसकी वजह से एक तरफ किसान जान देता है और दूसरी तरफ किसान का बेटा जान लेता है । नक्सलाइट और किसान की आत्महत्या - - दोनों जुड़वा सवाल हैं । सन्दर्भ में सोच कर आप बड़े पैमाने पर कोई आयोग गठित करके या सदन की सर्वदलीय कमेटी गठित

करके इस सवाल को गम्भीरता से लें,मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा । आप इसे किस तरह करेंगे, इसका आप सदन को आश्वासन दें ।

श्री देवव्रत बिस्वास : सर, इस पर एक अलग चर्चा करवाइए ।

श्री शरद पवार : इसके ऊपर अलग चर्चा से मुझे कोई एतराज नही, मुझे खुशी होगी । मगर यह बात सच है कि देश के बहुत से राज्यों में भूमि सुधार कानून लागू किए गए है, इस पर अमल हुआ है । In fact, फार्मर कमीशन और अन्य कई रिपोटर्स मेरे सामने इस तरह से आ रहे हैं कि दिन- ब – दिन परिवार में जमीन का बंटवारा परिवार बढ़ने के बाद जिस तरह से हो रहा हैं, उससे आज खेती करना अनइकोनॉमिक हो रहा है । इतने पैमाने पैमाने पर खेती का नम्बर बढ़ रहा है, यह देश के लिए ठीक नही है । इस तरह की कई रिपोटर्स कई राज्यों से आ रही है । यह बात सच है कि कुछ राज्यों के बारे में शिकायत यह है कि अभी कुछ जमींदार अपने नाम पर बड़े पैमाने पर जमीन रखने में कामयाब हुए है या सफल हुए है । मगर, most of the States have implemented the Agricultural Land Ceiling Act and today, the small holding is one of the serious problems which the Indian farmers are facing.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : चेयरमैन सर, देश में सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि देश में किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्या किया जाना इस बात का सूचक है कि कृषि धंधा संकट की ओर है । माननीय मंत्री महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि प्राकृतिक आपदा, जैसे ओला वृष्टि, पाला पड़ना, इससे किसानों की खेती के बहुत सारे हिस्से का नुकसान होता है । पर उसकी क्षति पूर्ति के लिए जो प्राकृतिक आपदा राहत राशि है, वह बहुत कम है । जैसे, मैं आपको उदाहरण के तौर पर बताना चाहूंगा कि पिछले साल राजस्थान के कुछ जिलों के अन्दर ओला वृष्टि हुई । किसानों को ओला वृष्टि के कारण नुकसान की क्षति पूर्ति के लिए जो राशि दी गई, वह बहुत कम दी गई । अब की बार ज्यादा सर्दी पड़ने से, पहला पड़ने से किसान की सरसों की जो फसल थी, उसको भारी नुकसान हुआ है । 80-90 प्रतिशत तक नुकसान हुआ है । क्षति पूर्ति के लिए जो राशि है, वह बहुत कम है । इसलिए मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या उन किसानों को राहत देने के लिए, आत्महत्या से बचाने के लिए उनकी क्षति पूर्ति लायक, जितना नुकसान हुआ है, उसकी पूर्ति के लिए कुछ राशि देंगे?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You see, to provide the relief in the event of a natural calamity, there are two schemes which are under implementation by the Ministry of Home Affairs as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. One is the Calamity Relief Fund and the other is the National Calamity Contingency Fund. इसके माध्यम से जब ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा होती है, जब राज्य सरकार को मदद की जाती है । जहां तक राजस्थान के ओले की बात है, जब ओले की समस्या हमारे सामने रखी गई, अभी मेरे पास डिटेल्ड फिगर्स नही है, तो

राज्य सरकार को वहां के किसानों की मदद करने के लिए कुछ राशि का प्रावधान किया गया था। इस पर राज्य सरकार ने डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन किया, ऐसी रिपोर्ट भी हमारे पास है।

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, the hon. Minister has told us that the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Maharashtra have instituted some inquiries. I would like to know from the Government of India, through the Minister, whether the Government is taking suicide as a serious issue and institute a special inquiry commission for India as a whole to find out the reasons behind it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Commission which has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Swaminathan is already going in detail over this particular subject. Some preliminary suggestions have been given to us by them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Cut in food subsidy

*1. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to impose a cut in food subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all political parties have requested Government to review its decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) In order to rationalise the allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), ensure that the food subsidy remains targeted towards poor households, and keeping in view the reduced availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the Government took the following decisions on 6.1.2006:

(i) For Above Poverty Line (APL) households, allocation of foodgrains to State Governments to be fixed on the basis of